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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

22 January 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Rear Admiral Patrick J. Hannifin, USN
Deputy Director of Strategic Plans
and Policy Division
J-5 (Plans and Policy)
The Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT : The Indian Ocean-Persian Gulf Basing
Problem

1. Attached for your information and use are some preliminary and general comments on the matters covered in our 15 January conversation and assessed in detail in your draft study (the "flimsy"). Within the next few days we will send you some additional thoughts on the Soviet aspect of the problem, on the political impact in the Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean area of actions such as those discussed in your staff study, and some suggestions on possible geographic alternatives.

2. As I think we mentioned and as you are doubtless aware, the intelligence community is currently at work on SNIE 30-74: Implications of Reopening the Suez Canal, requested by Deputy Secretary Clements and scheduled to go before the USIB on 7 February. This SNIE will address a number of questions, including Soviet attitudes and probable courses of action under various circumstances, which have a direct bearing on matters you are considering in your current project. If your own time schedule could possibly be revised to permit this, I think it would be useful to defer writing any final version of your project until you can crank in and take cognizance of the judgments of that SNIE.

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3. My associates and I very much appreciated your briefing and the discussion we had in connection with it. We will be glad to help you in any way we can.

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Deputy for National Intelligence Officers

Attachment

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